

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An apparatus for protecting a fuel system component  
2 disposed on an engine body in a vehicle, the apparatus  
3 comprising:

4 a protector including a first wall and a second wall  
5 connected with the first wall, the first and second walls  
6 extending toward the engine body and cooperating with each  
7 other to surround the fuel system component, the second wall  
8 having one end opposed to the engine body with a clearance;  
9 and

10 a first fastening member fixing the first wall to the  
11 engine body.

1 2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising  
2 a first boss receiving the first fastening member and having  
3 a seat, the first boss being provided on the engine body,  
4 the first wall including a fixed portion fixed to the seat  
5 of the first boss in an overlapping state through the first  
6 fastening member and an abutting portion offset from the  
7 fixed portion in an axial direction of the first fastening  
8 member and opposed to a circumferential side surface of the  
9 first boss with a clearance.

1 3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising  
2 a first boss receiving the first fastening member and having  
3 a seat, the first boss being provided on the engine body,  
4 the first wall including a fixed portion fixed to the seat  
5 of the first boss in an overlapping state through the first  
6 fastening member and an abutting portion that is arranged so  
7 as to be displaced to an abutment position where the  
8 abutting portion abuts on a circumferential side surface of  
9 the first boss when a load is applied to the protector.

1 4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed  
2 portion and the abutting portion are integrally formed by  
3 bending.

1 5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a fragile  
2 portion is formed at a bend between the fixed portion and  
3 the abutting portion, the fragile portion having a reduced  
4 thickness.

1 6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed  
2 portion and the abutting portion are connected with each  
3 other in an overlapping state.

1 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising  
2 a receptacle portion receiving the one end of the second  
3 wall, the receptacle portion being provided on the engine  
4 body.

1 8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the  
2 receptacle portion is a recess formed in the engine body.

1 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the engine  
2 body is connected with an intake manifold arranged forward  
3 of the engine body in a fore-and-aft direction of the  
4 vehicle, the protector being arranged within a space defined  
5 between the intake manifold and the engine body.

1 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising  
2 a second fastening member fixing the protector to the intake  
3 manifold.